

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 19, 42, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48, and 50 as set forth below.

Please add new claims 53-65 as set forth below.

A complete listing of all claims in this application is set forth below.

Claims 1-18 (canceled).

19. (Currently amended) An external bone/joint fixation device comprising:

a frame component having a posterior portion and an anterior portion disposed transverse to said posterior portion, said frame component including a plurality of first fixation bores defined in said posterior portion;

a cross bar assembly attachable to said anterior portion of said frame component, said cross bar assembly including a cross bar component fixable at any one of a plurality of positions in relation to said anterior portion, said cross bar component having a plurality of second fixation bores;

a posterior angulation assembly attachable to said posterior portion of said frame component at any one of a plurality of positions in relation to said posterior portion; and

a fixation wire extending from said posterior angulation assembly to said cross bar component,

wherein said posterior portion includes (i) a first side frame segment, (ii) a second side frame segment spaced apart from said first side frame segment to define a first gap therebetween, and (iii) a first connector portion extending from said first side frame segment to said second side frame segment,

wherein said anterior portion includes (i) a first leg, (ii) a second leg spaced apart from said first leg to define a second gap therebetween, and (iii) a second connector portion extending from said first leg to said second leg,

said first side frame segment of said posterior portion is connected to said first leg of said anterior portion,

said second side frame segment of said posterior portion is connected to said second leg of said anterior portion, and

said fixation wire extends (i) over said first gap, and (ii) through said second gap.

20. (Previously presented) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said cross bar component is rotatable about a longitudinal axis of said cross bar component.

21. (Previously presented) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said cross bar assembly further includes first and second cross bar holders each configured for attachment to said anterior portion of said frame component and for receipt of an end of said cross bar.

22. (Previously presented) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 21, wherein each cross bar holder is configured to clamp against an end of the cross bar component when the cross bar holder is mounted to said anterior portion of said frame component.

23. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said anterior portion extends above a first plane defined by said posterior portion.

24. (Previously presented) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said posterior angulation component defines a wire retention bore configured to receive a fixator for receipt of a portion of the fixation wire.

25. (Previously presented) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 24, wherein said posterior angulation component further defines a fastener bore alignable with any one of said plurality of first fixation bores defined in said posterior portion of said frame component.

26. (Previously presented) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 25, further comprising a fastener extending through said fastener bore and a first of said plurality of first fixation bores defined in said posterior portion of said frame component.

27. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, further comprising an elevator configured to extend about a bottom portion of said frame component and allowing access to a sole of the foot.

28. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 27, wherein said elevator is adapted to evenly distribute pressure applied thereto.

29. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 27, wherein said elevator is arcuate shaped.

30. (Previously presented) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein:

said frame component forms a continuous loop,

said posterior portion defines a first part of said continuous loop, and

said anterior portion defines a second part of said continuous loop.

31. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, further comprising calibration markings disposed on said posterior portion.

32. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said frame is fabricated from at least one of a composite material, a polymer, a metal alloy and a shape memory material.

33. (Original) The external bone/joint fixation device of claim 19, wherein said frame is fabricated from a radiolucent material.

Claims 34-41 (canceled).

42. (Currently amended) A fixation device, comprising:

a frame having (i) a posterior portion defining a first plane, and (ii) an anterior portion defining a second plane which is non-coplanar in relation to said first plane;

a cross bar assembly ~~configured to be coupled to said anterior portion of said frame component;~~

a posterior angulation assembly ~~configured to be coupled to~~ to said posterior portion of said frame ~~component;~~ and

a fixation member extending from said posterior angulation assembly to said cross bar ~~component~~ assembly.

wherein said posterior portion includes (i) a first side frame segment, (ii) a second side frame segment spaced apart from said first side frame segment to define a first gap therebetween, and (iii) a first connector portion extending from said first side frame segment to said second side frame segment,

wherein said anterior portion includes (i) a first leg, (ii) a second leg spaced apart from said first leg to define a second gap therebetween, and (iii) a second connector portion extending from said first leg to said second leg,

said first side frame segment of said posterior portion is connected to said first leg of said anterior portion,

said second side frame segment of said posterior portion is connected to said second leg of said anterior portion, and

said fixation member extends (i) over said first gap, and (ii) through said second gap.

43. (Currently amended) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:  
said cross bar assembly includes a first end portion and a second end  
portion,  
said first end portion is attached to said first leg of said anterior portion,  
said second end portion is attached to said second leg of said anterior  
portion,  
said cross bar assembly includes a cross bar component, and  
said cross bar component is fixable to said anterior portion of said frame  
component at any one of a plurality of positions.

44. (Previously presented) The fixation device of claim 43, wherein said  
cross bar component is rotatable between (i) a first position of said plurality of  
positions, and (ii) a second position of said plurality of positions.

45. (Currently amended) The fixation device of claim ~~43~~ 42, wherein:  
said cross bar assembly includes a cross bar component,  
said cross bar assembly further includes a first holder and a second holder,  
said first holder is securable to ~~a first part~~ said first leg of said anterior portion of said frame ~~component~~,  
said second holder is securable to ~~a second part~~ said second leg of said anterior portion of said frame ~~component~~,  
said first holder is configured to clamp a first end of said cross bar component, and  
said second holder is configured to clamp a second end of said cross bar component.

46. (Currently amended) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein said posterior angulation component is configured to be coupled to said posterior portion of said frame ~~component~~ at any one of a plurality of positions along said posterior portion.

47. (Currently amended) The fixation device of claim 46, wherein:  
said posterior portion of said frame ~~component~~ defines a plurality of first bores,  
said posterior angulation component defines a fastener bore, and  
said fastener bore is alignable with any one of said plurality of first bores.



48. (Currently amended) The fixation device of claim 47, further comprising a fastener extending through said fastener bore and a first of said plurality of first fixation bores defined in said posterior portion of said frame ~~component~~.

49. (Previously presented) The fixation device of claim 47, wherein:  
said posterior angulation component further defines a wire retention bore,  
and  
said wire retention bore is configured to receive a fixator component therein.

50. (Currently amended) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:  
said frame ~~component~~ forms a continuous loop,  
said posterior portion of said frame ~~component~~ defines a first part of said continuous loop, and  
said anterior portion of said frame ~~component~~ defines a second part of said continuous loop.

51. (Previously presented) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:  
said first plane and said second plane define an angle  $\Theta$ , and  
 $70^{\circ} \leq \Theta \leq 110^{\circ}$ .

52. (Previously presented) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:  
said first plane and said second plane define an angle  $\Theta$ , and  
 $\Theta$  is approximately equal to  $90^\circ$ .

53. (New) The fixation device of claim 19, wherein:  
said fixation wire further extends through said second gap.

54. (New) The fixation device of claim 42, wherein:  
said fixation member further extends through said second gap.

55. (New) A fixation device, comprising:

- a frame having (i) a posterior portion defining a first plane, and (ii) an anterior portion defining a second plane which is non-coplanar in relation to said first plane;
- a cross bar assembly coupled to said anterior portion of said frame;
- a posterior angulation assembly coupled to said posterior portion of said frame; and
- a fixation member extending from said posterior angulation assembly to said cross bar assembly,

wherein said posterior portion includes (i) a first side frame segment, (ii) a second side frame segment spaced apart from said first side frame segment to define a first gap therebetween, and (iii) a first connector portion extending from said first side frame segment to said second side frame segment,

wherein said anterior portion includes (i) a first leg, (ii) a second leg spaced apart from said first leg to define a second gap therebetween, and (iii) a second connector portion extending from said first leg to said second leg,

wherein said first side frame segment of said posterior portion is connected to said first leg of said anterior portion,

wherein said second side frame segment of said posterior portion is connected to said second leg of said anterior portion,

wherein said cross bar assembly includes (i) a cross bar component, (ii) a first holder configured to clamp a first part of said cross bar component, and (iii) a second holder configured to clamp a second part of said cross bar component,

wherein said first holder is secured to said first leg of said anterior portion of said frame, and

wherein said second holder is secured to said second leg of said anterior portion of said frame.

56. (New) The fixation device of claim 55, wherein said fixation member extends (i) over said first gap, and (ii) through said second gap.

57. (New) The fixation device of claim 56, wherein said fixation member further extends through said first gap.

58. (New) The fixation device of claim 55, wherein:

said cross bar component is configured to be fixed to said anterior portion of said frame at any one of a plurality of positions, and

said cross bar component is rotatable between (i) a first position of said plurality of positions, and (ii) a second position of said plurality of positions.

59. (New) The fixation device of claim 55, wherein said posterior angulation component is configured to be coupled to said posterior portion of said frame at any one of a plurality of positions along said posterior portion.

60. (New) The fixation device of claim 59, wherein:

said posterior portion of said frame defines a plurality of first bores,

said posterior angulation component defines a fastener bore, and

said fastener bore is alignable with any one of said plurality of first bores.

61. (New) The fixation device of claim 60, further comprising a fastener extending through said fastener bore and a first of said plurality of first fixation bores defined in said posterior portion of said frame.

62. (Previously presented) The fixation device of claim 60, wherein:  
said posterior angulation component further defines a wire retention bore,  
and  
said wire retention bore is configured to receive a fixator component therein.

63. (New) The fixation device of claim 55, wherein:  
said frame forms a continuous loop,  
said posterior portion of said frame defines a first part of said continuous loop, and  
said anterior portion of said frame defines a second part of said continuous loop.

64. (New) The fixation device of claim 55, wherein:  
said first plane and said second plane define an angle  $\Theta$ , and  
 $70^\circ \leq \Theta \leq 110^\circ$ .

65. (New) The fixation device of claim 55, wherein:  
said first plane and said second plane define an angle  $\Theta$ , and  
 $\Theta$  is approximately equal to  $90^\circ$ .